



CHIDZIVA TOBACCO PROCESSORS (PRIVATE) LIMITED





Weather, Irrigated and Dry Land Crop Overview

Weather: The country as a whole has experienced prolonged periods of hot and dry weather conditions with below average national rainfall levels. Since the beginning of the year most tobacco growing areas have received area specific adequate rain rather than wide spread down pours. The heaviest of storms have fallen late January into early February.

Although climate conditions country wide have been traditionally different, the coming week is forecasted to be wet with regular bouts of rain throughout the country, which will have a beneficial impact on the quality of the remaining tobacco still to be harvested.

The insert shows two different Irrigated crops grown by CTP'S commercial growers:





Irrigated Crop: Most irrigated crops country wide have grown out completely and are well under way with reaping and curing approaching the final stages. Sun scorch is noticeable in some areas towards the bottom of the plant, giving these positions a harsh “baked” nature. Towards the top of the plant we are seeing good quality, wholesome, oily, tobacco. This will relate to predominantly first and second quality tobacco. Average yields relating to this specific crop are of an improvement in general. There is evidence of top growers achieving yields in excess of 3,500 – 4,000kgs per hectare.

Dry Land Crop: The majority of dry land crops were planted in November and are well established at this point in time, the same applies for the crops which were planted with the late December rains. Most of the dry land crops are showing improvement with the rains which were received in January. Early planted dry land crops are now being harvested and most farmers are on their first and second reaps. However, we notice slower ripening rates of this crop due to the less than average rainfall received to date. The quality of the cured priming's is good to average. With the sudden increase in rainfall in late January we are optimistic that we will still see some very good top quality tobacco coming from the remaining leaves on the dry land crop.

Although in general rain has been traditionally short in comparison to traditional averages, in tobacco growing terms, it has been a sufficient rainy season for the 2015/016 crop and we are optimistic that the majority of the crop will be of a good, soft and of favourable nature.

The below insert shows tobacco which has been reaped and is ready for curing:





Conclusion

Comments:

• With the recent beneficial rain patterns we still believe this seasons estimated crop size to be between **170 – 185 Million Kg's**. We are expecting good rains in all growing areas this week and this alone will have a huge bearing on the overall yield and quality of the tobacco country wide. Due to the prolonged dry spell and the recent rains received the crop is expected to ripen considerably slower than last year. As a result of this there has been some indication the Auction Floors will delay purchasing until the 30th March however we are waiting for a formal response this week on this date.

Insert: Early stages of Tobacco curing

